

She worked as a hairdresser in her Brooklyn community for several years. As a retired person her hobbies have included dancing, reading, watching television and singing. Mrs. Suliman's favorite songs are "Down by the Cross" and "Bye—Bye Black Bird." She continues to be loved by her family unconditionally and admired by others in the community.

Mr. Speaker. Mrs. Mary Suliman, who now resides at the Marcus Garvey Nursing Home, has devoted her life to serving her family and community. As such, she is more than worthy of receiving recognition today.

HONORING THE DEDICATED PUBLIC SERVICE OF ALFRED S. PATE

**HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 16, 2002*

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the retirement of a dedicated public servant and good friend, Mr. Al Pate, Director of the North Chicago Veterans Affairs Medical Center (NCVAMC). Mr. Pate will be retiring on November 2, ending 30 years of service to our nation's veterans.

For the last 12 years, Al Pate has served as director of NCVAMC, a facility serving the veterans of northern Illinois with 150 operating hospital care beds, 204 nursing home care beds, a 60-bed domiciliary for homeless veterans, and 89 drug and alcohol treatment beds. With an annual budget of \$100 million, Al oversaw a staff of 1,130 and 700 volunteers who handle in excess of 180,000 outpatient visits a year.

Al has been recognized as a national leader in developing resource sharing agreements between the VA and the Department of Defense. Working with Captain John Fahey, Al led the initiative to jointly offer common services with Naval Hospital Great Lakes, located less than a mile away. Acting with little or no support from his immediate supervisor, Al has successfully laid the foundation for the establishment of a jointly operated, federal hospital in North Chicago serving both active duty military and veterans. This will result not only in better service for beneficiaries, but better value for the American taxpayer.

Prior to coming to North Chicago, Al Pate served as the Associate Medical Center Director at the Hines VA Hospital in Chicago. In his six years at Hines, Al coordinated several administrative services and chaired a number of hospital committees. He also served as Special Assistant to the Director at Lakeside VAMC, Administrative Resident at VAMC Cincinnati, Ohio, and as an adjudicator at the VA Regional Office in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Al received a Bachelors of Science degree in Secondary Education from Ball State University in 1971. He received a Master of Science degree in Public Administration from Ball State the following year. He also received a Master of Science degree in Hospital Administration as part of the VA Graduate Education Program.

Al Pate served in Vietnam with the United States Marine Corps as part of the all volun-

teer Combined Action Program. Wounded in combat, he received the Purple Heart, and was honorably discharged in 1969.

It is Al's dedication to veterans that distinguishes his career. This dedication earned him the respect of his colleagues, veterans advocates and, most of all, of the veterans he serves. I admire Al for the work he does, for his service to our country, and for his friendship. He will be sorely missed in North Chicago and I will pledge to work to see that his vision of a joint federal hospital in North Chicago is realized. I wish Al and his wife Patricia a happy retirement and thank them for their service.

TRIBUTE TO LOUISE BEAUDOIN IN CELEBRATION OF HER FIFTY YEARS OF SERVICE IN THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

**HON. BART STUPAK**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 16, 2002*

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a constituent of mine, a true "yooper" in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan who has served in the United States Postal Service for more than a half century. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Louise Beaudoin in recognition of her fifty years of working at the post office in Trout Lake, Michigan.

Born in 1927, in Moran, Michigan, Louise married Neil Beaudoin 58 years ago and has lived in Trout Lake ever since.

Louise Beaudoin began her career in the United States Post Office in Trout Lake on February 22, 1952. Trout Lake, a small resort town in the Eastern Upper Peninsula, is located approximately 30 miles northwest of the Mackinac Bridge, in the heart of the Eastern U.P. snowmobile country. This resort town consists of three lakes—perfect for fishing, boating, and swimming, a number of small resorts and restaurants, as well as a campground and park. Truly a vacationer's delight.

While Trout Lake is too small to support a school, it does rely heavily on its local post office as a means of contact with the outside world. Louise Beaudoin, the current Postmaster, has overseen operations at Trout Lake postal center for 19 years. This post office, which has no computers, manually processes all mail sent to and received by the town of approximately 600.

Louise began her career in Trout Lake as a part time flex employee. She was converted to a career appointment in November of 1971, and has served as Postmaster since 1983. Affectionately referred to as "Aunt Louise," "Weezie" or "Weezer" by townspeople and friends, Louise Beaudoin has served under seven Postmasters. Throughout her tenure in the post office, Louise has received numerous awards including: "Beyond the Call of Duty" lapel pin, the Superior Achievement Award; a 30 year service pin, a 45 year ruby service pin; and in June of this year, the 50 year diamond lapel pin as well as a resolution from the Michigan Legislature.

Louise has two sons Richard and Mark Beaudoin. Richard has followed in his moth-

er's footsteps, working for the USPS in West Palm Beach, Florida, while Mark owns Beaudoin Sanitation in Trout Lake. She has two granddaughters in Trout Lake, Amy and Erin, who actively help Louise by washing windows, sweeping sidewalks and shoveling snow. Outside of her work in the post office, Louise is actively involved in St. Mary's Catholic Church, and the Trout Lake Women's Club.

Mr. Speaker, on June 21, 2002, Louise Beaudoin officially celebrated her fifty years of service to the United States Postal Service in Trout Lake. She was joined by her friends and family as well as several other postmasters in the Eastern Upper Peninsula recognizing her tireless dedication to the community of Trout Lake and the United States Postal Service. Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my House colleagues to join me in saluting, Louise Beaudoin, a woman who exemplifies the very best qualities of the good people residing in the First Congressional District of Michigan.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DOROTHY PACHECO

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 16, 2002*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great admiration that I recognize Dorothy Pacheco of Pueblo, Colorado for the outstanding contributions she has made in caring for the elderly. Mrs. Pacheco has recently been named the Colorado Health Care Association's 2002 Nurse of the Year and, as she receives this distinguished honor, I would like to pay tribute to her outstanding career before this body of Congress.

The way Dorothy Pacheco began her nursing career was anything but conventional. After she married, Dorothy and her husband soon started a family and her hectic schedule as a full time mother made finding the time to attend nursing school extremely difficult. However, by the time her youngest daughter was one year old, with the support of her husband, children, and friends she was able to meet the challenge and go back to school.

While still fulfilling her responsibilities as a full time mother, Mrs. Pacheco simultaneously invested long hours toward nursing school and holding down a part time nursing job. In 1982, all of Dorothy's hard work paid off when she received her degree to become a registered nurse. Although Dorothy believed her true passion was in hospital care, she soon found that caring for elderly patients was a most satisfying responsibility. After only a year of working as a hospital nurse, Dorothy returned to caring for the elderly and that is where she remained for the duration of her career.

Mr. Speaker, it is with genuine appreciation that I recognize Mrs. Dorothy Pacheco before this body of Congress and this nation for the selfless contributions she has made toward the welfare of Colorado's elderly. Her great works are an inspiration to us all and her optimism, good will and compassion have touched the lives of thousands of senior citizens throughout my state.